

Oyster farming environmental checklist – Hatcheries

Issued August 2019

EPA 1120/19: To facilitate compliance with the Code of practice for the environmental management of the South Australian oyster farming industry (2017), four checklists have now been developed to help oyster growers undertake audits of their facilities against the requirements of the code.

Introduction

To assist industry in meeting the requirements of environmental legislation, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) developed the *Code of practice for the environmental management of the South Australian oyster farming industry* (2017). The code identified potential environmental issues associated with oyster farming and providing management strategies to address these issues by specifying mandatory requirements that must be complied with and best environmental practices that are generally outcome-based to allow growers to continue their own individual methods of farming oysters.

Purpose of the checklists

Checklists have been developed for the four key components of oyster farming which are:

- 1 Hatcheries – facilities used to grow oyster spat.
- 2 [Marine farming sites](#) – where oysters are farmed.
- 3 [Oyster depots](#) – where grading, packing, and equipment maintenance and storage takes place.
- 4 [Use of vehicles and vessels](#) – operation and maintenance of vehicles and vessels used on the farm.

These checklists are a tool to assist oyster growers to identify if they are meeting EPA requirements by undertaking a self-audit of their business. It can also be used by relevant government agencies to check compliance with environment protection legislation during site visits. The requirements specified in this checklist are referenced from the code.

You should note the checklist only reflects the operational practices of oyster farming and the mandatory requirements of the code ie the 'musts'. For further information on EPA requirements for construction of new facilities and how you can implement best practice to further demonstrate general environmental duty on your farm, please refer directly to the [Oyster Code](#).

Scoring the checklist

The checklist is scored based on the findings that are observed on the farm. The scoring system reflects a traffic like approach to identify areas that are compliant, require some improvement, or have resulted in a breach of legislation or environmental harm.

The following table provides an explanation of each scoring category and actions that you should be taking in response to the findings. The EPA adopts a risk-based approach to regulation and will support any oyster farmer who aims to take all reasonable and practicable measures to meet requirements and minimise the potential for environmental harm which may be caused by discharging, depositing or emitting a pollutant. The relevant sections of the code are referenced in the table (under 'Code ref').

		Action required
Compliant (C)	The farm meets this requirement.	Document evidence that demonstrates compliance. No further action.
Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Requirement is met however is not best practice. This may result in environmental harm or breaches of legislation if improvements are not made in the future.	Undertake risk assessment to identify potential for non-compliance. Identify and document opportunities for improvement if required.
Minor non-compliance (Minor NC)	Requirement has not been met however no environmental harm is evident or the potential for environmental harm as a result is low.	Action is required to make sure that requirement is met within a specified time period which is written on the checklist.
Major non-compliance (Major NC)	Requirement has not been met and there is a significant risk of environmental harm or environmental harm has occurred as a result.	Immediate action is required to rectify the situation. Re-analyse within four weeks to ensure the corrective action has been successful. The EPA must also be notified as soon as reasonably practicable if the harm is considered serious or material.

EPA checklist for oyster farming

Hatcheries – Facilities used to grow oyster spat for growout

Farm: _____

Performed by: _____

Date: _____

Requirement	Code ref	Findings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
There is no environmental harm occurring at or adjacent to your site as a result of your activity. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of seagrass • black sediments • excessive algal growth • increase in turbidity (water cloudiness) • significant odour • excessive noise • site contamination (eg fuels) • toxic fumes • impacts to aquatic fauna or flora. 	2.1.1 2.3.3.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollutants are not being discharged into any waters (including stormwater). This may include fuels, lubricants, sediment, washdown water, chemicals for cleaning and stock management, shell grit, oyster shells, biofouling and sludge	2.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The waste management hierarchy has been applied for the management of waste and wastewater (ie aim to avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover or treat waste before choosing to dispose).	2.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Requirement	Code ref	Findings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
Waste on site is stored and disposed of in a lawful manner and does not result in contamination of land or any waters. (The preferred option for disposal is via kerbside waste collection or at licensed waste facilities).	2.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reasonable and practicable measures are taken to prevent waste from being blown, washed or swept off site. Any waste off site is recovered as soon as possible.	2.1.4 2.4.16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reasonable and practicable measures are taken to minimise off-site noise, odour, air quality and dust impacts to neighbouring properties.	2.1.6 2.1.7 2.4.6 2.6.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dead oysters and other organic matter (eg shell grit, biofouling and sludge) is disposed in a manner that does result in any offsite odours to neighbouring properties or attraction of vermin (eg flies).	2.1.7 2.3.2.3 2.4.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Requirement	Code ref	Findings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
Chemicals and fuels are stored and used (eg in generators) in a manner that prevents spillage/runoff into stormwater and other waters (see EPA guideline Bunding and spill management).	2.1.2 2.3.3.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Chemicals are only used in accordance with <i>Aquaculture Regulations 2016</i> (permitted by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority via registration or minor use permit, or approved by PIRSA . Note: EPA authorisation may be required if discharged water contains antibiotic or chemical water treatments, and the total volume of the discharges exceeds 50 kL per day.	2.3.3.4 2.3.3.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste chemicals and containers are disposed of appropriately to a licensed waste facility).	2.3.3.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wastewater and waste from cleaning infrastructure do not flow into stormwater or the aquatic environment, or seep into groundwater.	2.1.2 2.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Requirement	Code ref	Findings ☑				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
<p>Local council consent has been obtained prior to burning rubbish or other material on site if it is to be undertaken within a local township.</p> <p>Note: Treated timber waste, plastics or tyres must not be burned under any circumstances.</p>	2.4.7 2.4.26	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Discharged wastewater from the hatchery into the marine environment does not exceed the default guideline values as specified in the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (in particular for nutrient, chemicals and sediment levels) and does not resulted in environmental harm. Note: the Oyster Code refers to trigger levels which has now been superseded.</p>	2.2.4 2.5.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Sediment/settlement ponds (if applicable) are maintained to minimise the potential for seepage, uncontrolled overflow and odour, and to adequately treat wastewater prior to discharge.</p>	2.2.5 2.5.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Leakage/seepage of salt water from pipes, tanks, ponds and other infrastructure is prevented so that it does not seep into groundwater or inland surface waters, or result in surrounding soils becoming contaminated by salt.</p>	2.2.3 2.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Further information

Legislation

[Online legislation](#) is freely available. Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet
Adelaide Service SA Centre
108 North Terrace
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
Website: <https://service.sa.gov.au/12-legislation>
Email: ServiceSAcustomerservice@sa.gov.au

General information

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
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Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
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Freecall: 1800 623 445 (country)
Website: <https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>
Email: epainfo@sa.gov.au
